fertilizers. Rs. 4743 crore on domestic fertilizers Rs. 1674 crore on controlled fertilizers, Rs.15329 crore on electricity and for irrigation I do not have the latest figure with me but in 1994-95 we have given them subsidy for Rs. 6828 crores. It is also a method so that their production expenditure can be met with.

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : I wanted to know the differences of rates of various inputs and produces like wheat in 1950 vis-a-vis their rates prevailing now. There should be a parity between both the prices ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Where is the time? We have taken too much time on this question.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, the hon. Minister has very nearly answered this question. Subsidy is a very important aspect of the Budget. It is generally stated that it is the poor who get the subsidy. In fact, we know that the exporters and the industrialists get the subsidy by not paying taxes. In the economy, as a whole, varius sectors and primarily the rich get subsidy in terms of export concessions and in terms of backward district concessions, etc. So, what is not known is the figure for subsidy, whether explicit or implicit, given to the poorer sections of the population and agriculture *perse*. I want a full estimate from the hon. Minister of Agriculture as to what is the total amount of subsidy provided for agriculture. Can he differentiate between the poor and the rich? I ask this question for one reason. In the earlier Budget it was proposed that if a marginal farner buys a tractor, he will be given a huge subsidy ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Chatterjee, you are going beyond your promise about a pointed question.

[Translation]

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, distribution of land is already imbalanced. Small and medium farmers have 32% of the total area and rest of the land is with others. People having more land will take more fertilizer and if you want balanced land then we will appeal to communist parties to make more efforts for that. Besides what can we do? Secondly targetted group should be given more we are thinking in this direction, I have said earlier also. But the problem is that their organisation is not that strong so that we can give them. If communist people will help them we can help more...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. ASIM BALA (Navadwip) : Sir, the answer given by the hon. Minister is not very clear. Though he has mentioned about the percentage of subsidy given to the small and marginal farmers, he has not specified about the percentage of subsidy farmers, he has not specified about the percentage of subsidy given to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe farmers...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. SPEAKER : I do not know.

[English]

Cotton Growers

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*227. SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the woes of the cotton growers in different parts of Gujarat following inadequate sale and fall in the prices of cotton;

(b) whether the State Government has also not provided the assured amount of Rs. 100 crore to the cotton co-operatives for helping the cotton growing farmers: and

(c) if so, the steps proposed by the Government to improve the plight of cotton growers of the State?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The cotton prices in Gujarat in the current year are lower compared to the last year but these are ruling well above the minimum support prices. However, the State Government has asked the Gujarat State Cooperative Federation Ltd. to stop up purchase of cotton from the farmers and has undertaken to bear losses, if necessary. With State Government's assurance, the State Cooperative Bank has given the loan of Rs. 28 crore and a further Rs. 25 crore loan is awaiting NABARD's permission. Accordingly, the GUJCOT purchased 1.38 lakh bales of cotton amounting to Rs. 129.50 crore so far after arranging credit facilities to the institutions.

(c) The Government has been taking various steps to help cotton growers :

(i) Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of various varieties were announced before the start of the season.

(ii) Export quota of 12.20 lakh bales of cotton has been released during the current year of which one lakh bales of cotton is allotted to GUJCOT. In addition a spill-over quantity of 6.90 lakh bales (approx) from the export

quota of 1995-96 season has been permitted to exported by 28.2.97.

(iii) The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has been making aggressive purchases to give support to cotton growers. As on 23.2.97 the CCI purchases during the current season have been 7.81 lakh bales as compared to 6.14 lakh bales as on the corresponding date in the previous year. The CCI and GUJCOT have purchased 3.55 lakh bales and exported 1.69 lakh bales of cotton from Gujarat during the current season. State Marketing Federation and NAFED have also been given export quotas and have also been buying cotton.

(iv) The ceiling on export of cotton yarn of counts below 41s in 1996 was increased from 80 million kgs to 110 million kgs. for the year 1997, the ceiling for export of cotton yarn below counts 41s has been further enhanced to 120 million kgs.

(v) Cotton has been removed from Selective Credit Control.

(vi) There are no on stock-limits for cotton.

(vii) In the Central Budget proposals for 1997-98, it has been proposed to repeal Ginning and Pressing Factories Act of 1925 and the Cotton Control Order of 1986 will be invoked only in well defined emergency situation. Domestic future trading would be resumed in respect of ginned and baled cotton.

[Translation]

SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the United Front Government talks about farmers and the hon. Minister is also a farmers. But whenever it comes to the farmers then the United Front Government backs out. Producer farmers are protected but the cotton growers are not being protected. What are the reasons for that? How much amount was given to Gujarat during the last three years through Incentive Cotton Development Programme under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme and if given the reasons for giving a lesser amount.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, while fixing the price of cotton the Government issues orders for purchase of cotton when the market price comes to be lower than the Government approved rates. If so happens in the cotton sector that if in one year the global production of cotton decreased then the price of cotton increased and in the next year if production increased the rates does not increase in that proportion. Prices cannot be fixed according to glucturation, but if the prices are less than the support price then orders are issued for its purchase. The figures given consist of both the things. We are giving more quantity for export. I would like to inform the hon' ble Members that in 1994-95, 1.8 lakh bales were exported, and 1995-96 it increased to 15.90 lakh bales and for 1996-97 the order is given of 12.20 lakh bales. Efforts are also being made to allow the states to make the sake of cotton. We try to see that the market price does not fall below the minimum support price. But the mill owners manoeuvre in such a worry that the farmers do not get remunerative price. There is a committee for this purpose. We are waiting for its report. Suitable action will be taken after report is received.

SHRI DINSHA PATEL : How much a money was given to Gujarat during the last three years under the Incentive Scheme?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Incentive, what for?

SHRI DINSHA PATEL : How much money was given to Gujarat during the last three years under Cotton Development Programme?

SHRI CHATURANNA MISHRA : I have state-wise figures, if you want I will give you separately.

MR. SPEAKER : Give separately.

SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Sir, in the reply you have stated about the steps taken help the producers. What minimum price has been announced? When the Industries Act, 1925 was repealed and what are the benefits of the new Act enforced in 1996.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : The benefit will be that farmers can sell their produce and can export. The full figures are not available with us.

SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Gujarat Government, through a Fax message, pleaded the cause of the farmers, but its reply has not been given till date. My question is why the reply has not been given? Secondly, every time Government talks about the farmers, I want to give you last three years figures. In 1992-93 there was a proposal to sanction Rs. 1 crore. Later this amount was reduced and only 45 lakh were given. Thired year this amount was further reduced and Rs. 11 lakhs were given. It is wrong to reduce funds instead of increasing, the same. The Government must took into the plight of cotton growers in Gujarat, Maharashtra and other parts of India. The hon. Minister was that in the recent cotton seminar and he had explained quite well then. I appreciate that. I want to know from him as to what scheme has been formulated by the Government for the cotton growers and the steps he proposes to take against decreasing trend of price during last three years.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have just said that in response to the question raised by Hon'ble members in Upper House, an enquiry committee has been set up to enquire into this aspect. I also said in the conference that as soon as the report of the committee comes we will take action accordingly. I told you and am still saying that let the report come we will tell you accordingly.

SHRI NAND KUMAR SINGH CHAUHAN : Mr. Speaker, SIr, through you, I Want to tell the hon'ble

Minister that the prices of cotton has been decreasing during the last two years. In 1994-95 the cotton price in the country was rupees 2500/- per quintal last year, the price was 2100-2200 and this year we are getting 1500/- per quintal. The Maharashtra Government is purchasing cotton at the rate of Rs. 2100/- per quintal this year. Will the actual Government make any programme through c.c.i. for purchasing cotton @ Rs. 2100 per quintal?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I said once thatt we will intensive only when the market price is less than the minimum support price and regarding Maharashtra, they resort to monopoly in purchase. In Gujarat there is a corporation which deals with it. I have already given the figures in this regard ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NAND KUMAR SINGH CHAUHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Maharashtra cotton is purchased for Rs. 2100/- per quintal at the minimum support price.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot ask another question.

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : Punjab is also a cotton growing State. Last year, the farmers suffered a graat loss because the cotton pricess fell in the market and the Cotton Corporation of India and the NAFED did not enter the market in time. When the farmers had sold their crops, then only these agencies came in. IThe hon. Minister has said that minimum support price is offered to the farmers if it falls down. Minimum support price is only a national price and cotton is not sold at minimum support price anywhere. Will the hon. Minister assure that the Cotton Corporation of India and the NAFED will enter the market in time when the cotton comes in the market in Punjab?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : In Punjab and other places also, if the price in the market is below the support price, only then we enter. I can give you the figures in my reply. CCI has been making aggressive purchases to give support to the cotton growers. As on 23.2.97, the CCI purchases during the current season have been 7.81 lakh bales as compered to 6.14 lakh bales in the previous year. I have told you that we are purchasing more. But if you want something more, then you can discuss about that with me.

MR. SPEAKER : I will explain to him. The contention of the hon. Member is that the CCI is entering the market late and the prices are going down. If the CCI enters the market early, then farmers are likely to get more prices. The hon. Member wants to know whether you are prepared for that. I think this is what Sarder Surjit Singh Barnala wants to know.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : If it is a time factor, then I will examine it.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : The hon. Minister has said that the ruling prices are well above the minimum support price. Actually, the minimum support price is not the remunerative price. I would like to know what measures the hon. Minister wants to take so that the farmers get remunerative price of cotton. The only way for that, according to the economists, is that 40 per cent of the purchases should be done by the institutions. If you organise it, then only the price will remain in favour of the farmers. May I know what steps the hon. Minister is likely to take for achieving 40 per cent buying by the institutions and not by the mills or traders?

MR. SPEAKER : I think, the Minister has already answered this question and said that he is examining it.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I again want to tell him.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, you are examining it.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : We have millions of handloom weavers. If the cotton prices shoot up, then they will die of starvation. I have that consideration also in my mind.

SHRI P. UPENDER : Sir, the Government of India always takes *ad hoc* decisions in these matters, particularly in regard to cotton, tobacco and other crops. They are aware of the requirement of the spinning mills and they are also aware of the export requirements. But in spite of that, they do not plan it in advance. Why can they not plan it in advance and tell that so much quantity will be allowed for export and so much quantity will be available to the State Trading Corporation, NAFED and Cotton Corporation of India ? Why can they not have an advance planning and tell the farmers in advance so that distress sales are not resorted to by the farmers?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Sir, this cannot be done unless we know what is the production that we are having.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : You know the production. You can do it on the basis of last year's production.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Sir, every year's production forecast is not correct. When the production figures are available, only then we can say how much will be required by the mills and what is the domestic requirement. I have already given the figures. We are increasing the exports.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, my question pertains to the formula of Minimum Support Price which is the basle requirement. Will the hon. Minister consider in consultation with the Planning Commission to take a raview of the Minimum Support Price formula in comperison to industrial production formula? In the case of industtrial production the formula is: cost plus 10 per cent of the profit and whatever you call it. Similarly, can we consider for agricultural production that total cost plus 10 per cent or 15 per cent of profit over that? Can that formula be applicable for the Minimum Support Price for agricultural production also as is being done for industrial production?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Sir, it is already there. We are giving 10 per cent as managerial cost. That is there. The hon. Member can examine it and if there is any suggestion, I am ready to go through it.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, I agree with the Minister. That is already there. I think the best suggestion has come from Shri Barnala, if you can examine his suggestion regarding the entry of the CCI.

National Commission for Safai Karamchari

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*229. SHRI N. DENNIS :
SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the budget allocation for the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis during 1996-97;

(b) the location of the Headquarters of the Commission;

(c) the number of employees working in the Commission;

(d) whether the Commission has examined the living conditions of the scavangers;

(e) if so, the details of the report submitted in this regard during 1995-96;

(f) whether the Commission has made any proposal for setting up its Regional Offices at Bangalore and other places of the country; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The budget allocation for the National Commission for Safai Karmacharis during 1996-97 is Rs. 70 lakh. However, in R.E. 1996-97 it has been increased to Rs. 7.50 lakhs.

(b) The Commission is located in 'B' Wing, 4th Floor of Lok Nayak Bhawan, Khan Market, New Delhi.

(c) Apart from the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Members of the Commission 43 employees are working in the Commission. However, the total sanctioned strength of the Commission is 46, out of which 3 posts (2 of Private Secretary and one of Research Assistant) are lying vacant. In addition, 10 group 'D' staff have been engaged on daily wage basis.

(d) and (e) The Commission have submitted the first Report for the year 1994-95 during November, 1995 which, inter alia, included recommendations pertaining to the term and status of the Commission, financial autonomy, definition of scavenger, survey, stipend, training, project cost of rehabilitation, publicity to the scheme, timely release of funds, adoption of cluster approach, monitoring, facilities for Safai Karamcharis, finance corporation exclusively for Safai Karamcharis, etc.

(f) The Commission has not made any proposal for setting up of Regional office at Bangalore.

(g) Does not arise.

SHRI N. DENNIS : Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister the steps that are being taken by the Government for the rehabilitation of Safai Karamcharis and also for the development of their economic, social and other living conditions? Is there any special programme is being evolved to enable them to cross the poverty line? Will the Government set up regional offices in the South to speed up the activities of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Sir, the Government has launched a national scheme of liberation and rehabilitation of scavengers and their dependents. Under this scheme, we have first identified the number of persons who are in this obnoxious occupation of carrying human excreta on head and the number of persons who are scavengers.

12.00 hrs.

We have 7,50,000 scavengers all over India. We have different schemes for the elimination of this profession. We are offering them substitute or alternative employment, and we are sure thhat by 2002 the Government will be in a position to eliminate this bad profession.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Mobile Zoos

*221. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of registered as well as unregistered mobile zoos operating in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Central Zoo Authority has banned the unregistered mobile zoos in the country;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(d) the assistance, if any given to such registered mobile zoos by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) The total number of mobile zoos in the country which have made applications to Central Zoo Authority for recognition is 25. These are 11 in Bihar, 1 in Tamil Nadu, 9 in Uttar Pradesh and 4 in West Bengal. Besides these, 2 zoos from Madhya Pradesh and 1 zoo from Rajasthan which did not make any application to the Central Zoo Authority for recognition have approached Hon'ble High Court of Delhi to allow them to continue their operations.

(b) Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides that no zoo can be operated without getting recognition from the Central Zoo Authority. Action is being taken accordingly.